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ORIGINAL

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
COUNTY OF WAYNE  
THIRD JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COURT - CRIMINAL DIVISION

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN,

vs.

Case No. 03-001609

MICHON D. HOUSTON,

Defendant.

**SENTENCE**

BEFORE THE HONORABLE VERA MASSEY JONES  
CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE

Detroit, Michigan - Tuesday, April 22, 2003

**APPEARANCES:**

For the People: LISA McNICHOLS (P63531)  
Wayne County Prosecutor's Office  
1441 St. Antoine, 12th Floor  
Detroit, Michigan 48226-2302  
(313) 224-5777

For the Defendant: DAVID E. LANKFORD (P43536)

Court Reporter: JANICE I. PAYNE, CSMR 3521  
(313) 224-2487

RECEIVED  
MAY 17 2004  
MICHIGAN COURT OF APPEALS  
FIRST DISTRICT


APPROVED  
8-13-03  


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WITNESSES:

PAGE

NONE

EXHIBITS:

MARKED

ADMITTED

NONE

1 Detroit, Michigan

2 Tuesday, April 22, 2003

3 At about 12:17 p.m.

4 (All parties present.)

5 THE CLERK: Case number 02-14431, 03-2386,  
6 and 03-1609; People versus Michon Houston. He's here  
7 for sentencing and disposition -- I'm sorry -- and  
8 final conference.

9 MR. LANKFORD: Your Honor, David Lankford on  
10 behalf of Mr. Houston on all three matters. I take it  
11 the Court wanted to address the sentencing first?

12 THE COURT: Yes.

13 MR. LANKFORD: Your Honor, we've --

14 MS. McNICHOLS: Can I just put my name on the  
15 record?

16 MR. LANKFORD: I'm sorry.

17 MS. McNICHOLS: Lisa McNichols on behalf of  
18 the People.

19 MR. LANKFORD: My apologies.

20 Your Honor, we've reviewed the  
21 Presentence Report. Obviously, on this type of verdict  
22 --

23 THE COURT: Ah, tell me, are there any  
24 corrections or additions to be made to the Presentence  
25 Report?

1 MR. LANKFORD: No, ma'am, there are not.

2 THE COURT: Okay. Now go ahead.

3 MR. LANKFORD: Obviously, on this type of  
4 verdict there's not a whole lot. There's no guideline  
5 issues.

6 I guess what I need to do is, number  
7 one, I wish that the verdict had come back different,  
8 Mr. Houston, and I advise you to appeal.

9 Judge, for purposes of the sentencing, I  
10 have to take the verdict. And I guess all I can really  
11 say is that, you know, Mr. Houston, throughout the  
12 course of my representation, he's always been an  
13 excellent client. I mean, he's a bright, intelligent  
14 young man. We've discussed things very objectively,  
15 very straight-forwardly. His understanding was  
16 excellent.

17 You know, increasingly, I think in these  
18 matters that we've just got a lot of people who are  
19 potentially wasting their lives. They are causing  
20 their lives to get wasted.

21 I think that's probably pretty much it.

22 THE COURT: This was a first degree murder  
23 conviction. Anything from the People?

24 MS. McNICHOLS: No, your Honor.

25 THE COURT: Anything Mr. Houston would like

1 to say?

2 DEFENDANT HOUSTON: Verbal notice of an  
3 appeal.

4 MR. LANKFORD: Right there.

5 THE COURT: Oh, of course, we're going to  
6 give it to you.

7 MR. LANKFORD: They're going to hand you that  
8 form in just a moment, sir.

9 THE COURT: Anything else?

10 DEFENDANT HOUSTON: No, that's it.

11 THE COURT: I can't hear you.

12 DEFENDANT HOUSTON: No, that's basically it.

13 THE COURT: Okay. And I might tell you, the  
14 only thing the appeal will take care of is any legal  
15 questions. Factual matters that the jury decided will  
16 not be changed by an appeal.

17 DEFENDANT HOUSTON: Right.

18 THE COURT: On the first degree murder, I  
19 sentence the defendant to natural life in prison.

20 On the possession of a firearm by a  
21 felon, I sentence the defendant to serve one and a half  
22 to five years.

23 On the felony firearm, I sentence him to  
24 the mandatory two years. He'll have to do the time on  
25 that before he can do any time on the underlying

1 offenses.

2 The underlying offenses, that is, the  
3 murder first degree and the possession of a firearm by  
4 a felon can be served together.

5 Now, you may file an Application for  
6 Leave to appeal your conviction and sentence to a  
7 higher court. If you're without funds to hire a  
8 lawyer, you may request this Court to appoint an  
9 attorney, and request that the Court furnish that  
10 attorney with the portions of transcript and records  
11 the attorney needs.

12 The request for the appointment of an  
13 attorney must be made in writing and sent directly to  
14 the Court at the address noted above within 42 days.

15 The financial schedule on the back of  
16 this form must be completed.

17 MR. LANKFORD: Thank you, your Honor.  
18 Acknowledge receipt.

19 THE COURT: Okay. Now, the final conference  
20 in this matter, we're going to adjourn it over. Maybe  
21 the People may decide that they want to dismiss these.  
22 I don't know. So let's put it over to May 2nd. Okay?

23 MR. LANKFORD: Judge, I'm personally out of  
24 town on the 2nd.

25 THE COURT: The 9th.

THE COURT: Okay. Thank you.

\* \* \*

STATE OF MICHIGAN) ) ss  
COUNTY OF WAYNE )

August 13, 2003

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